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MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Minnesota during July 2015 totaled 800 million pounds, up 4 percent from last July. This is the highest July milk production for Minnesota since 1972. The average number of milk cows during July, at 460,000 head, was unchanged from both last month and last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,740 pounds, up 70 pounds from July 2014.

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 16.6 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from July 2014. June revised production at 16.4 billion pounds, was up 0.9 percent from June 2014. The June revision represented an increase of 40.0 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,921 pounds for July, 12 pounds above July 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of July since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 47,000 head more than July 2014, and 2,000 head more than June 2015.

Milk production in the United States during July totaled 17.7 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from July 2014.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,893 pounds for July, 12 pounds above July 2014.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.32 million head, 54,000 head more than July 2014, and 1,000 head more than June 2015.

Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: July 2014 and 2015

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	193	195	1,960	1,985	378	387	2.4
California	1,779	1,778	1,980	1,915	3,522	3,405	-3.3
Colorado	145	145	2,150	2,210	312	320	2.6
Florida	123	125	1,715	1,710	211	214	1.4
Idaho	579	586	2,115	2,105	1,225	1,234	0.7
Illinois	94	94	1,640	1,670	154	157	1.9
Indiana	179	181	1,830	1,855	328	336	2.4
Iowa	208	212	1,885	1,915	392	406	3.6
Kansas	142	143	1,845	1,860	262	266	1.5
Michigan	394	409	2,120	2,170	835	888	6.3
Minnesota.....	460	460	1,670	1,740	768	800	4.2
New Mexico	323	323	2,130	2,040	688	659	-4.2
New York	615	619	1,920	1,970	1,181	1,219	3.2
Ohio	266	266	1,745	1,760	464	468	0.9
Oregon	123	122	1,755	1,730	216	211	-2.3
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,690	1,730	896	917	2.3
South Dakota.....	97	106	1,845	1,900	179	201	12.3
Texas	470	462	1,840	1,850	865	855	-1.2
Utah	95	96	2,000	2,020	190	194	2.1
Vermont	132	132	1,730	1,740	228	230	0.9
Virginia	93	91	1,580	1,630	147	148	0.7
Washington	272	275	2,070	2,050	563	564	0.2
Wisconsin	1,271	1,280	1,870	1,955	2,377	2,502	5.3
23-State Total.....	8,583	8,630	1,909	1,921	16,381	16,581	1.2

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves

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FARM COMPUTER USE

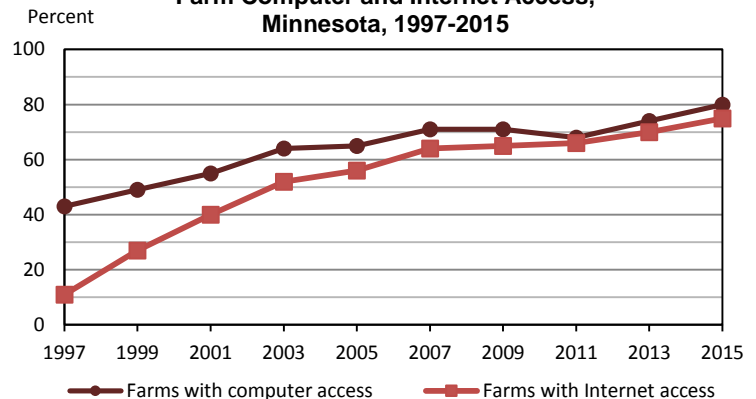
Seventy-eight percent of Minnesota farms own or lease a computer, 7 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage. Eighty percent of Minnesota farms report having access to a computer, up 6 percentage points from 2013. Farms using computers for their farm business remains unchanged at 51 percent, 8 percentage points above the national percentage, which rose to 43 percent.

Seventy-five percent of Minnesota farms have Internet access, up 5 percentage points from 2013. A wireless connection is now the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 37 percent of farms in Minnesota with access to the Internet utilizing wireless, up 10 percentage points from 2013. In 2015, DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) service declined to 28 percent, down from 43 percent in 2013.

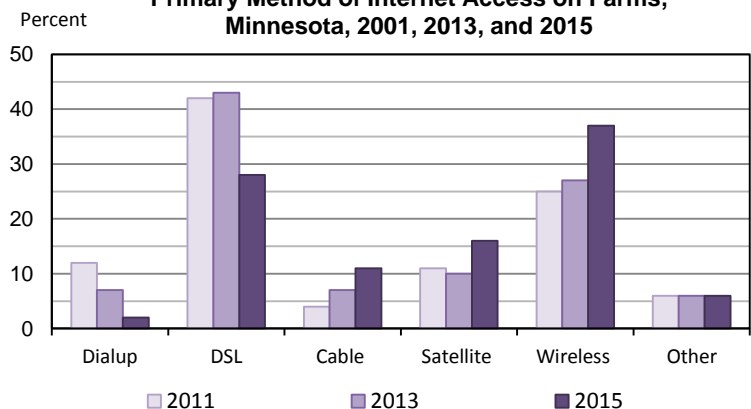
When U.S. producers were asked to respond to questions for USDA-NASS's biennial Farm Computer Usage and Ownership report, 70 percent report having access to the Internet, up 3 percentage points from 2013. A DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) connection is the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 30 percent of the farms in the United States using it, down from 35 percent in 2013. A wireless connection, at 29 percent, increased 5 and 4 percentage points, respectively. Other reported methods of accessing the Internet include cable modem service (12 percent), dial-up service (3 percent), and other or unknown (5 percent).

Farms with computer access at 73 percent is slightly higher than the 71 percent of the farms that reporting owning or leasing a computer. Computer access by sales class is 71 percent for sales class \$1,000--\$9,999; 70 percent for sales class \$10,000--\$99,999; 73 percent for Sales Class \$100,000--\$249,999; and 85 percent for Sales Class \$250,000 or more. Computer usage for farm business at 43 percent nationally, is up 3 percentage points from 2013. This compares with usage by the four geographic regions: West (48 percent), North Central (46 percent), Northeast (45 percent), and the South (36 percent). Comparing computer usage by crop and livestock farms, 47 percent of the crop producers use the computer for farm business compared to 39 percent of the livestock producers.

Farm Computer and Internet Access, Minnesota, 1997-2015



Primary Method of Internet Access on Farms, Minnesota, 2001, 2013, and 2015



Farm Computer Usage – Minnesota and United States: 2011, 2013, and 2015

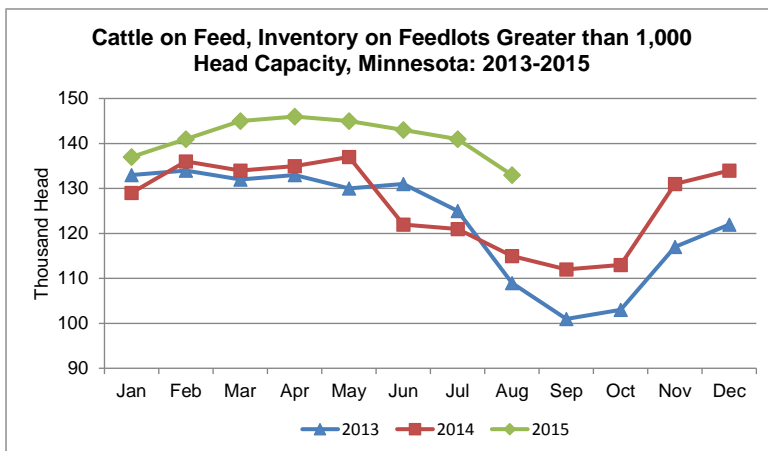
Farms	Minnesota			United States		
	2011	2013	2015	2011	2013	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
With computer access	68	74	80	65	70	73
Own or lease computers.....	65	71	78	63	68	71
Use computers for farm business	43	51	51	37	40	43
With Internet access.....	66	70	75	62	67	70
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet.....	13	16	15	14	16	19
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet	18	24	20	12	14	16
Access USDA/NASS reports over Internet.....	12	11	12	7	8	10
Access other USDA reports over Internet	16	19	19	13	14	17
Access other federal government websites over Internet.....	13	13	15	14	14	17
Conduct business with any USDA website	6	9	10	5	6	9
Conduct business with any other federal government website	4	4	5	4	5	7
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	36	50	50	35	40	44
Primary method of Internet access						
Dialup	12	7	2	12	5	3
DSL	42	43	28	38	35	30
Cable.....	4	7	11	11	13	12
Satellite	11	10	16	15	17	21
Wireless	25	27	37	20	24	29
Other/Unknown.....	6	6	6	4	6	5

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Minnesota for all feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head totaled 133,000 head on August 1, 2015. This is down 6 percent from last month but up 16 percent from last year.

Placements during July totaled 11,000 head, down 35 percent from last month but up 10 percent from last year. **Marketings** for July were 18,000 head, unchanged from last month but up 20 percent from last year. **Other disappearance** totaled 1,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.0 million head on August 1, 2015. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2014.



Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.55 million head, 1 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.49 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 235,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 327,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 620,000 head. Placements are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.73 million head, 3 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 56,000 head during July, 11 percent below 2014.

Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – Selected States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Cattle on Feed ¹ August 1			Placements during July			Marketings during July			July Disappearance other than Slaughter ²		
	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	262	239	91	23	23	100	26	22	85	7	2	29
California	420	455	108	39	41	105	47	41	87	7	5	71
Colorado	790	790	100	90	90	100	145	125	86	5	5	100
Idaho	175	220	126	37	37	100	41	41	100	1	1	100
Iowa	600	630	105	56	71	127	74	80	108	2	1	50
Kansas	1,900	1,930	102	400	395	99	390	395	101	10	10	100
Minnesota.....	115	133	116	10	11	110	15	18	120	1	1	100
Nebraska	2,140	2,200	103	375	390	104	465	455	98	10	15	150
Oklahoma	240	250	104	32	38	119	46	47	102	1	1	100
South Dakota	175	210	120	20	17	85	39	34	87	1	3	300
Texas	2,470	2,440	99	410	365	89	415	395	95	15	10	67
Washington	170	210	124	36	34	94	40	38	95	1	1	100
Other States	295	295	100	31	35	113	44	34	77	2	1	50
United States ...	9,752	10,002	103	1,559	1,547	99	1,787	1,725	97	63	56	89

¹ Cattle on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

CHICKENS & EGGS

Minnesota Egg production during July 2015 was 201 million eggs, up 6 percent from last month, but down 26 percent from last year. The average number of **all layers on hand during July 2015** was 8.31 million, down 1 percent from last month, down 25 percent from last year, and the lowest inventory since records began in 1994. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of July were 2,418, up 7 percent from last month, but down 1 percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 7.67 billion during July 2015, down 10 percent from last year. Production included 6.53 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 83 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2015 averaged 329 million, down 9 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,333 eggs, down 1 percent from July 2014.

All layers in the United States on August 1, 2015 totaled 329 million, down 9 percent from last year. The 329 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.30 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2015, averaged 75.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from August 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2015 totaled 42.6 million, up 1 percent from July 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 44.4 million on August 1, 2015, up 12 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 267 thousand during July 2015, down 3 percent from July 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2015 totaled 805 million, up 2 percent from July 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 646 million on August 1, 2015, up slightly from a year ago. Leading breeders placed 7.43 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2015, up 20 percent from July 2014.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During July 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals.]

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 & above		All layers on hand		Eggs per 100 layers		Total egg production		Table egg production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	1,529	1,514	9,309	9,551	2,009	1,989	187	190	41	40
Arkansas	3,584	3,697	12,271	12,906	2,086	2,069	256	267	88	90
California	15,585	13,042	15,997	13,545	2,400	2,289	384	310	(D)	(D)
Colorado	4,628	4,033	5,001	4,516	2,500	2,613	125	118	(D)	(D)
Connecticut ¹	2,311	(NA)	2,404	(NA)	2,454	(NA)	59	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Florida	8,170	8,533	8,583	8,926	2,319	2,319	199	207	194	202
Georgia	9,407	9,586	18,159	18,429	2,159	2,187	392	403	223	228
Illinois	4,268	4,168	4,761	4,642	2,520	2,262	120	105	115	100
Indiana	26,486	25,924	27,467	26,884	2,403	2,425	660	652	641	632
Iowa	57,584	32,448	58,787	33,593	2,375	2,307	1,396	775	1,378	758
Maine ¹	3,422	(NA)	3,477	(NA)	2,358	(NA)	82	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Maryland	2,603	2,539	2,774	2,703	2,451	2,516	68	68	66	66
Michigan	12,865	12,799	13,082	13,016	2,523	2,435	330	317	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	10,632	7,854	11,088	8,314	2,444	2,418	271	201	264	194
Mississippi	1,318	1,536	5,501	5,801	2,036	2,103	112	122	33	39
Missouri	6,481	6,085	8,725	8,278	2,338	2,319	204	192	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	9,468	5,769	9,576	5,877	2,600	2,569	249	151	249	151
New York	4,737	4,567	5,094	4,927	2,493	2,578	127	127	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	6,009	6,831	13,728	14,745	2,120	2,089	291	308	151	158
Ohio	30,268	30,926	31,145	31,778	2,459	2,410	766	766	(D)	(D)
Oregon	2,239	2,306	2,378	2,445	2,691	2,618	64	64	64	64
Pennsylvania	23,329	23,729	25,146	25,683	2,513	2,507	632	644	607	616
South Carolina	2,966	3,066	4,201	4,306	2,166	2,346	91	101	69	78
South Dakota	2,409	1,408	2,551	1,550	2,430	2,516	62	39	62	39
Texas	14,827	15,360	18,901	19,424	2,312	2,265	437	440	(D)	(D)
Utah	4,160	4,192	4,198	4,230	2,382	2,506	100	106	100	106
Virginia	1,300	1,113	3,073	2,836	2,180	2,080	67	59	35	27
Washington	6,686	7,162	6,852	7,327	2,481	2,470	170	181	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	4,116	3,527	4,892	4,307	2,433	2,484	119	107	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	12,771	18,989	21,666	28,192	2,229	2,302	483	649	349	508
United States	296,158	262,703	360,787	328,731	2,357	2,333	8,503	7,669	7,404	6,525

(NA) Not available. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ¹ Included in Other States in 2015. ² Includes data for states not published in this table.